An Inaugural Dissertation
on
Apoplexy.
For the Degree
of
Doctor of Medicine.

Submitted to the examination
of the
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Apoplexy.

The following history of Apoplexy, I have drawn up from the Lectures of the Professor of the Institutes. Aware of the correctness and utility of his observations on this disease (and on diseases in general) I have taken this history from him, with the view of impressing the subject firmly on my mind, and at the same time to comply with the rules of this University.

Did the laws of the University compel the Candidate to present a Dissertation wholly original, I should indeed be at a loss for a subject, since the present Professors have laboured so much, with a view to the perfection of Medicine.

I am proud to acknowledge the debt I owe to the Professor of the Institutes. That model of Wisdom, Solomon, it is said, gave the following piece of advice, "Walk in the paths,

of wise Men." sensible of the beneficial tendency of this sentence, I feel as if the good Solomon accompanied me, and in addition to the foregoing; observed, "Stray not thou from the paths of Rush.

Apoplexy has been divided by Cullen into the Sanguineous, and the Serous. The former species Cullen supposed depended upon an extravasation of Blood, the latter upon an effusion of Serum in the brain. There can be no necessity for this distinction, for Apoplexy will be Apoplexy, from whatever cause induced. It would be impossible for the Physician to know, and if he did know, of no importance, whether whether the disease arose in consequence of Blood or Serum. In either case the remedies would be the same, and therefore the distinction must be entirely useless. Like many of the Nosological diseases, (if this distinction was admitted) we would be obliged to await the death of the Patient, and then dissect his

Brain, in order to ascertain whether the disease was owing to Blood or Serum.

Professor Rush has arranged Apoplexy under the head of, diseases which affect the Nerves, Muscles, Brain, and Mind, in common with the Bloodvessels. Apoplexy has been defined, that disease in which the external and internal Senses, and the powers of voluntary motion, are in some degree abolished, while the functions of the Heart, Arteries and Lungs, continue to be performed. This disease may be distinguished from Palsy (which is a lower grade of Apoplexy) by its affecting all the powers of sense and voluntary motion at the same time. It is likewise distinguished from Syncope, by the continuance of Respiration, and the action of the Heart.

The sleep of Apoplexy, is known from common sleep, by its coming on more suddenly, being more profound, and more generally attended with snoring. There is usually a relaxation of the Sphincters of the Anus, and Bladder, whilst the peristaltic motion of the Bladder continues.

The Patient is sometimes attack'd suddenly but most frequently, the Fit is preceded by some of the following symptoms, viz. Elevated excitement, snoring in persons unaccustomed to it. Drowsiness, Giddiness. Numbness in one or both arms, or sides. dull and false vision, Cloudiness over the eyes. Absence of Piles or Gout in persons affected with them. The face becoming suddenly flushed, the blood is suffused over the whole face, of a dark red colour. This last symptom, constitutes the disease to which Doct. Rush has given the name

of Fascial Apoplexy.

These symptoms continuing for a longer or shorter time the patient becomes wildly delirious of the powers of computing Motion and of the use of his limbs. He at length lies down the breathing is noisy and stertorous, the countenance generally flushed though sometimes pale, the pupil of the eye is dilated, foaming at the mouth grinding the teeth &c. The disease very frequently terminates in Paralysis or the patient is seized with vomiting and after a profuse perspiration recovers the powers of his mind &c. The pulse during the continuance of the fit is either frequent, depressed intermitting or slow. It has been observed so low as to beat but 7 or 8 strokes in a minute. This slowness of the pulse is more dangerous than quickness.

Apoplexy sometimes occurs without previous premonitory symptoms, and when it does it is generally proved fatal in consequence of a rupture of a blood-vessel in the brain.

The Remote Causes of Apoplexy are; excessive exercise of the understanding, intemperance in eating and drinking, intoxication or what is usually termed, a stroke of the sun. Apoplexy from the last mentioned cause is uncommon in climates where the uniform warm, at least it does not occur in the natives of such countries.

The exciting causes of apoplexy are very numerous, among which are the following, viz. Violent exercise of the whole body, hard straining, the inclosure air of crowded houses or churches, theatres, tight ligatures about the neck, in the form of cravats, intoxication, blows, wounds, fractures

Homeopathic Times & Phreno, Jan 9. in a Paper
read of the mind to illustrate this, Doctor Ruth Ward
recited a case of a German colour in this city who
was nearly violated by some Boys blowing the
smoke of tobacco through the key-hole of his door
The robber pursued them without catching any one
they began to tantalize him, he became highly
enraged, and fell dead in an apoplexy.
Cold feet. Dock Rush mentions two cases of the
disease from cold feet. Overloading the stomach
at supper. Electricity. Sleeping on a new floor.
Smoking tobacco. Dock. Rush mentions two cases
of apoplexy from this cause. It is induced by
liquors more especially of a Malignant kind.
It is recorded that in the year 1749 apoplexies

more Epidemic in Paris. Congestion of Blood or Water
in the Brain. When the disease arises from extravasated
Fluids in the Brain the second fit is generally fatal
& prove fatal.

The Remedies for the Terrible Fate of the
Disease (when the patient is drowsy, sitting, dull and
stupid vision swelling of the face and neck) are
Bleeding. The patient should lose ten or twelve ounces
of blood, and take some purging medicine with
a view to prevent the coming fit. Dock Turner
subscribes to the efficacy of this remedy. He often bled
himself whilst riding in his carriages, and thus
effectually arrested the epileptic fit. Rest and a purge
when these symptoms arise from exercise, blood letting
would be proper. At this period always there is a
tendency to return the patient should avoid as much
as possible the sunshine and extreme cold.

When the disease has formed, and he was called to the patient, the apartment should be cleared of all unnecessary attendants, for crowding is very injurious to persons labouring under Apoplexy. Ligatures bandages, and clothes tight or close should be removed from the body. The head of the patient is to be raised, and care should be taken that no officious attendant applies any aromatic substance to the nose, or makes use of friction to any part of the body. Blood should then be immediately taken from one or both arms or from the temporal artery, if the pulse be not depressed. When symptoms arise from congestion blood letting should be prompt and copious; for if congestion has not already taken place in the vessels of the head, bleeding will prevent it.

If the Pulse be Slow depressed or intermitting, the Rivenian method of treatment should be employed. Doctor Rush supposes that Leeches applied up the Nose would prove beneficial. This would no doubt be a great service as it accords to well with the Rivenian method.

In this state of Apoplexy, profuse bleeding would be highly injurious; he should therefore take away blood gradually. A vein must be opened and a few ounces of blood taken, he is up again until the Pulse rise. When it does open the vein again take another small quantity, and in this way of proceeding, we will in the system time to arouse, and react. If such pointed body such as a Quill has been Crush up the nostrils in order to rubbe a blood vessel and produce hemorrhage. This has often done great service.

When cantharides or from any poisonous substance in the stomach remains should be evacuated, and will always be useful by removing such substances. Vomiting may be excited by emetics, the stomach with a catheter. Purgatives should be used in all instances, beside the use of emetics. The bowels should be opened by the use of large doses of Jalap, aloes, or castor oil. Clysters should be used and a catheter introduced into the bladder to draw off the urine if the patient is unable to void it.

If then the disease is attended with fever, the head may be shaved and cold water or pounded ice applied to it. If all these remedies be of no avail the mouth have recourse to blisters, applied to the upper and lower extremities, and to the neck.

In this low state of the disease, mustard in the form of Cataplasm should be applied to the soles of the feet, electricity, friction to the extremities, loud and acute sounds, and lastly, the application of the actual cautery to the neck. If these different remedies should fail to rouse the patient, he will at least console himself with the certainty that no exertion on our part has been omitted.

The unfavourable signs of this disease are when it attacks persons under thirty years of age. Dr. Cheyne mentions but one case which he saw under this age. It is usually fatal when it occurs in children. When the patient makes an effort to reach his mouth with his hand. When a fever arises late in the disease, when the pulse is intermitting, and when the

face is pale. It is almost always fatal when it comes on without any of the premonitory signs.

The prominent symptoms of apoplexy are fever, vomiting, a quick pulse, inverted pupils, paralysis on the side of the greater number of persons recover from apoplexy depending on by intoxication, therefore avoid the cause.

The prophylactics are avoiding indigestible food of all kinds, such as mince pies. Dock Ross is of opinion that the great number of apoplexies which occur about Christmas, may be attributed to the general use of mince pies about that period. Temperance in eating and drinking. Danger in the bed should be avoided. Moderately stimulating drinks to persons who have been in the habit of drinking intoxicating liquors.

a London Dose with water would be preferable to other drinks. For the purpose of removing weakness Quassia has been used with advantage. Dock Book in his lecture on this subject mentions the case of a person who was troubled with giddiness, having dreamed a certain person directed him to take a tea or three ounces of Quassia a day. He made use of this remedy and was perfectly cured. Exercise, this should be gentle and constant, either walking or riding, the latter mode is preferable. Fatigue from either mode is to be carefully avoided. The patient should not sleep with his head low or on his back or too much on one side, for this purpose the patient should lie on a hard bed, a blanket is very good as it will induce him to be restless.

If the suppression of a discharge from an old sore, has taken place, issues may very properly be engaged likewise seatons in the back of the neck. Avoiding crowded assemblies and characteristic guarding the foot against cold; for this purpose thick stockings should be worn. A plaster of Burgundy pitch, or what doctor Brook particularly recommends, a plaster of Chamomile flower, worn between the foot and the stocking. Costiveness must be guarded against, any mild laxative purge, may frequently be exhibited.

Having brought the subject of inquiry to a conclusion it is a matter for me to tender my warmest thanks to the Profession in this city, for the kind attention to me & my inquiries with that in my power to instruct thousands who shall feel as grateful to them as the author of this essay.

Finis.